

# World Civilizations I

Global History to c. 1500

## **HIST 232I**

Spring 2024

Wed., 2:00—3:15

Classroom Hall 309

**Dr. Elizabeth Hasseler**

[ehasseler@tamusa.edu](mailto:ehasseler@tamusa.edu)

CAB 313-C

Office Hours:

Mon., 2:30—3:30

## Course Description

HIST 232I is a survey of global history from the agricultural revolution to c. 1500. We will focus in particular on society, culture, and religion through a global perspective.

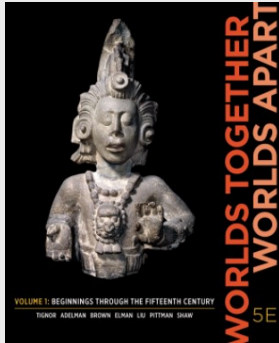
## Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Broadly narrate the premodern histories of global civilizations, including China, India, Europe, and the Islamic world;
2. Understand the dynamics of premodern social hierarchies as organized by class, caste, gender, and race;
3. Historically contextualize contemporary issues, including pandemics, climate, and the environment; and
4. Analyze premodern historical sources.

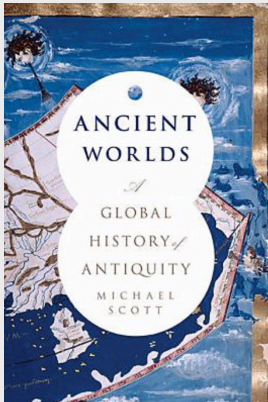
## Books

**Recommended, but not required:**



***Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, Fifth Edition, Volume 1: Beginnings Through the Fifteenth Century***

**Required:**



**Michael Scott, *Ancient Worlds: A Global History of Antiquity***

All additional readings will be made available on the course site.

## Grade Breakdown

25%	Participation Points
25%	Quizzes
15%	Midterm Exam
15%	Final Exam
10%	Book Reading Response & Discussion

## Participation Points

You will receive the participation point for each module when you complete all of the participation elements for that week (see below). Most weeks, this will mean participating in the in-class discussion and completing a Journal entry (if assigned). There are thirteen participation points in total, but your final participation grade will be calculated out of twelve (meaning that you will be given one free pass).

## Textbook or Lectures?

If you're wondering whether to prioritize the textbook readings or the lecturers in your studying, you should focus first and foremost on the lectures. All of the materials for the quizzes, exams, and papers will be covered in lecture. The textbook will provide a useful supplement to the lecture material.

# Participation Elements

## Journal Entries

Your Journal is a private space for you to share your thoughts and questions about the course with Professor Hasseler. All Journal entries will be graded complete/incomplete. **Journal entries are always due on Sunday by 11:59 pm.**



## In-Class Discussion

The core of your weekly participation will take place during the in-class discussions held each Wednesday. In the classroom, we will take time to review course material and discuss the primary source readings. You should use the module guides to direct your preparation for the weekly discussion.

## Course Assignments

### Quizzes

Module quizzes will test you on learning goals and mastery content. You may retake each quiz once, and your final quiz grade will be the higher of your two efforts. **First quiz attempts are always due on Sun. by 11:59 pm. Second quiz attempts are always due Tue. at 11:59 pm.**

### Exams

You will take two exams in this course. Both exams will be take-home, open-book essays. The prompt for the exam will be provided one week in advance of the due date. Exam essays may be revised and resubmitted, though a higher grade is not guaranteed.

### Book Discussion and Response

We will be reading Michael Scott's *Ancient Worlds: A Global History of Antiquity* (see above) this semester. You will complete a 2 pg. reading response and participate in the in-class discussion of the book on Wed., April 3.

# Course Policies

## Attendance Policy

Regular attendance in class is crucial for keeping up with course material and is a central component of your participation grade. However, I know that things occasionally come up that may cause you to miss a class session. **You should contact me as soon as possible if this happens so that we can discuss your situation and potential accommodations.** If you are regularly absent, I will get in contact to discuss your future progress in the course and potential withdrawal.

## Late Work

I work to be understanding and flexible about your responsibilities outside the classroom. I know that you likely have jobs, family obligations, etc. that you have to prioritize alongside your schoolwork, and I also understand that the combination of schoolwork and personal and professional responsibilities can cause stress and anxiety. I will work with you to accommodate circumstances that may affect your coursework or ability to participate in the course. **Please contact me as soon as possible if something comes up so that we can discuss your situation and potential accommodations.** I will not accept late work in the absence of any communication, but if you reach out to me as soon as you become aware of complicating factors, we can work to try to accommodate your situation.

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism is not an innocent form of cheating — it is a serious act of academic misconduct. I will be rigorously checking all work for signs of plagiarism. **If you are caught having committed plagiarism at any point, you will receive a failing grade in the course and I will submit an academic misconduct report to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.** It is ultimately your responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it at. Resources are readily available through me, the library, and the internet if you are ever unsure.

## Generative AI Policy

Unless otherwise specified, the use of automated writing tools, including language-learning model AIs such as **ChatGPT**, is **strictly prohibited** in this course. The use of automated writing tools is considered plagiarism and will be handled in accordance with the above policy.

# Course Schedule

## January 16 — 21

### Module 1: The Agricultural Revolution

**Reading:** *WTWA*, Chapter 1, pp. 24-41; *WTWA*, Chapter 2, pp. 43-81; Standage, “The Roots of Modernity,” from *An Edible History of Humanity*

**Assignments:** Journal Entry, Quiz

## January 22 — 28

### Module 2: Ancient Peoples and Ancient States

**Reading:** *WTWA*, Chapter 3, pp. 83-119, Chapter 4, pp. 144-8; Excerpts from *The Code of Hammurabi*; Excerpts from *The Epic of Gilgamesh*

**Assignments:** Quiz

## January 29 — February 4

### Module 3: The First Empires

**Reading:** *WTWA*, Chapter 4, pp. 121-157; *Jinteng*, from *The Book of Documents*; *Wenwang*, from *The Classic of Odes*; *Shao Gao*, from *The Book of Documents*

**Assignments:** Journal Entry, Quiz

## February 5 — 11

### Module 4: The Axial Age

**Reading:** *WTWA*, Chapter 5, pp. 159-86; *Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta*; Excerpt from Confucius, *The Analects*; *Exodus* 19-24; Excerpt from Plato, *The Republic*

**Assignments:** Quiz

## February 12 — 18

### Module 5: The Silk Road

**Reading:** *WTWA*, Chapter 6, pp. 199-235; Excerpt from Strabo, *The Geography*; Excerpt from *The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea*

**Assignments:** Journal Entry, Quiz

## February 19 — 25

### Module 6: The Han and Roman Empires

**Reading:** *WTWA*, Chapter 7, pp. 237-76; Excerpt from *The Debate on Salt and Iron*; Excerpt from Suetonius, *The Twelve Caesars*

**Assignments:** Quiz

## February 26 — March 3

### Midterms

No class Wed., Feb. 28

Midterm Exam due **Sun., March 3 by 11:59 pm**

## March 4 — 10

### Module 7: The Rise of Universal Religions

**Reading:** *WTWA*, Chapter 8, pp. 277-305; Excerpt from *The Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicity*; Excerpt from *The Mission of Song Yun and Huisbeng*

**Assignments:** Quiz, Midterm Revisions

## March 11 — 17

Spring Break: No Class

## March 18 — 24

### Module 8: Society and Gender in the Ancient World

**Reading:** “Women’s Virtues and Vices;” Jerome, “Letter to Marcella”

**Assignments:** Journal Entry, Quiz

## March 25 — 31

### Module 9: From the Ancient to the Medieval World

**Reading:** *WTWA*, Chapter 9, pp. 317-55; Excerpts from the *Qur’an*; Excerpt from Muhammad bin Ishaq, *Life of Muhammad*; Excerpt from Al-Bukhari, *On Fasting*

**Assignments:** Quiz

## April 1 — 7

### Module 10: The High Middle Ages

**Reading:** *WTWA*, Chapter 10, pp. 357-83; **Book Discussion:** Michael Scott, *Ancient Worlds: A Global History of Antiquity*

**Assignments:** Quiz, Book Response

## April 8 — 14

### Module 11: The Mongols and Global Commerce

**Reading:** *WTWA*, Chapter 10, pp. 391-9; Excerpt from Rustichello of Pisa, *The Voyages of Marco Polo*; Excerpt from Ibn Battuta, *Rihla*

**Assignments:** Journal Entry, Quiz

## April 15 — 21

### Module 12: Plague and Pandemic

**Reading:** *WTWA*, Chapter 11, pp. 403-20, 427-37; John Aberth, “Doctoring the Black Death: The Medical Response to Plague,” from *The Black Death: A New History of the Great Mortality in Europe, 1347-1500*

**Assignments:** Quiz

## April 22 — 28

### Module 13: Europe Encounters the World

**Reading:** *WTWA*, Chapter 11, pp. 420-7; Christopher Columbus, “Letter on His First Voyage”

**Assignments:** Quiz

## May 1 — 7

### Final Exams

Final Exam due **Thurs., May 2, by 11:59 pm**